

Affordability Committee of the Frederick County Health Care Coalition
Meeting Notes – December 18, 2006

Present: Guy Djoken, Ken Eidel, Pat Hanberry, Sue Hecht, Nicole Hoff, Phillip Killam, Helen Monk, Sarah Penna, Pat Rosensteel, Jinji Djoken.

Sent regrets: Maria Shuck, Susan Lindstrom, Earl Robbins

District 3A Delegate Sue Hecht gave a presentation on Maryland's state legislative process. Nathaniel Sheir from her staff also attended. In addition to describing how an idea becomes a bill becomes a law, Sue gave tips for success on your issue:

- There is strength in numbers. Work with other groups to advance your bill. Be sure you're all saying the same thing.
- Be prepared for objections to your bill.
- Tell the truth. Hiding possible problems can hurt your cause.
- The lead sponsor is crucial to bill's success; co-sponsors can help.

Maryland has 47 Senators, 141 Delegates. One-third are new this session.

If you testify, be sure to state clearly 1) what the bill does 2) why it is needed; 3) what the problem is 4) how problem has personally affected you or others.

If you contact legislators by email or postcards, use a short personalized message. Phone calls and faxes are fine. It may be hard to meet with lawmakers during session; they are very busy. Plan ahead.

Report from Interim Coalition Coordinating Committee (ICC):

Pat Hanberry is on this committee. They meet every two weeks. She shares our notes with them and will forward their notes to us. They are working on the structure of the coalition (how will it operate) and responsibilities of members/agencies.

Committee issues to be addressed at January meeting:

1. Discuss possible short-term goals for affordability committee: getting more eligible folks enrolled in public programs, including Primary Adult Care (PAC). Would need outreach, public information campaign.
2. Suggest questions for needs assessment.
3. Develop strategies for educating community groups about Health Care for All, proposals for expanding options for affordable health coverage.
4. Nicole Hoff from Hood is doing research on dental care for the underserved in Frederick County.
5. Sarah is stepping down as chair. Members were urged to volunteer to chair the committee.

Decision to meet the 4th Tuesday each month. Next meeting: January 23, 7-9 pm at Abilities Network

Notes by Carol Antoniewicz, ecacres@adelphia.net